



BOROUGH OF ROMSEY.

1939.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Urban District (Municipal Borough)

of Romsey.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for 1939 of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

ROMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough
of Romsey, acting as the Urban Sanitary
Authority.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1939. In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health, the report has been materially shortened, several items have been omitted and others dealt with as briefly as possible.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	....	....	....	1212
Registrar General's estimate of resident population.				5811
Number of inhabited houses.	....	....	....	1603
Ratio of population to inhabited houses			....	3.6
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£34310
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	£134.10.
Number of Council houses...	....	....	....	160

The outbreak of war in September led to an increase in the School population. The Air Raid Casualty Services are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from the Romsey Urban and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Councils. The Urban district played an important part in providing voluntary personnel for the Casualty Services.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1939.

Live Births:-

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Legitimate.	35	40	75	} Birth rate per 1000 estimated population mid 1939 -- 13.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
<u>Still Births.</u>	6	1	7	Rate per 1000 (live & still) births -- 35.
<u>Deaths.</u>	35	26	61	Death rate per 1000 estimated average population -- 10.4

Number of women dying in, or in (	From Sepsis.	-	-	0.
consequence of, child birth.	(	From other causes.		0.

2.

Infantile mortality. Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1000 live births	....	....	40
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births....			40
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	9
" " Measles "	....	....	0
" " Whooping Cough "	....	....	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2)	....	....	0

The death rate and infantile mortality rate are low. Of all causes of death, heart disease accounted for 19, Cancer 9, Tuberculosis 3 and other circulatory 4.

The condition of the children has improved, largely due to the improved housing conditions. Visitors to the town have expressed surprise on being told that houses near the station were Council houses - most of them were impressed by the large amount of space around the houses and their well kept condition. Children thrive when the amount of external ventilation of houses is generous and it is to be hoped that the Council will continue to allow the same ample space in front and at the back of houses, when erecting new ones.

The free and cheap milk in schools and the supply of milk to nursing and expectant mothers has had a very good effect.

Section B (i) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.
- (b) The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time officer. He is also employed as Surveyor.
- (c) The Veterinary Inspector is a part-time officer.


(ii) Nursing in the Home.

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority. In cases of Ophthalmia and Puerperal pyrexia not requiring hospital treatment, nursing is provided where necessary by arrangement with the County Council.

(iii) Laboratory Facilities.

The County Laboratory provides facilities for chemical and bacteriological examination.

An Emergency Laboratory has been established since September 1939, for an area which includes Romsey.



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Hospitals.

- General. Romsey and District Hospital. The local Sanitary Authority as such make no contribution
- Infectious. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted by arrangement to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.
- War. Group 1 B. Romsey and District Hospital.
Group 2. Romsey Emergency Hospital.
- Small pox. Provision is made by the County Council.
- Unmarried mothers. Institutional arrangements made by County Council.
- Tuberculosis. The County Council provide Sanatoria and dispensaries.
- Maternity and Infant Welfare. The Centre is now held at Rivermede by kind permission of Mrs. Hills. Honorary Secretary: Miss Fisher.
- Orthopoeedic. Children attend the clinic at Eastleigh.
- Eye. Provision of eye clinic by County Council.
- Ambulance. For infectious disease an ambulance is provided by the Isolation Hospital authorities.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Report of the
Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(1) Water.

The area is supplied with a piped supply by the Southampton Corporation from their waterworks Pumping Station at Timsbury. The quality of the water is good and the supply is 'constant'. A few houses in isolated spots still obtain their supply from shallow wells which are liable to contamination.

With few exceptions all houses are supplied direct from the mains, but instances remain of bib-taps being situated in common yards, and shared by more than one household.

The Local Authority is now insisting on a supply of drinking water being readily available in each house, and during the past year three houses have had separate supplies laid on.

(11) Drainage and Sewerage.

The drains of all new properties are connected with the sewerage system and it is only in exceptional cases that septic tanks are necessary, that is, where the properties are not within reasonable distance of a sewer. The exceptional cases occur mostly in the Added Area of the Borough, but almost the whole of the available land within the boundaries of the old Borough is served by a sewer leading to the Pumping Station at Saddlers Mill, from which it is pumped to the Sewage Disposal Works.

The sewerage system is working fairly satisfactorily. During the year under review 78,945,000 gallons of sewage were pumped to the Disposal Works at Greenhill to receive treatment, and no nuisance was reported. The effluent discharged into the adjoining stream is satisfactory in every respect, and well within the limits of the Royal Commission Standard. The quantity dealt with is equivalent to an average twenty-four hour flow of 216,238 gallons, which is the discharge expected from a population of 10,314 persons at an allowance of twenty gallons per head per day. During the six winter months 52,495,000 gallons were pumped, equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 238,434 gallons - a discharge expected from a population of 14,421 persons, and during the six summer months 26,450,000 gallons were pumped, equal to an average twenty-four hour flow of 144,535 gallons - a discharge expected from a population of 7,226 persons, allowing in both instances 20 gallons per head per day.

The amount of rainfall for the year registered at the Disposal Works was 36.406 inches, 22.4455 of which fell in the winter months and 13.9605 in the summer months.

Summarised the figures for 1939 and the preceding year are as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Sewage Pumped Gallons.</u>	<u>Average Daily Flow.</u>	<u>Expected from a population of -</u>	<u>Rainfall Inches</u>
1939.	78,945,000.	216,238.	10,814.	36.406
1938.	51,620,975.	141,427.	7,071.	25.715

The above figures depict a marked difference in the quantity of sewage pumped - a little over 27,000,000 gallons, but it is to be noted that the rainfall was $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches more, and the figures for 1939 represent a fair average since the sewage system was installed.

5.

No major work to eliminate infiltration into the sewers was undertaken during the year. The length of old brick sewer running from Palmerston Street along the By-pass Road and skirting the Tadburn Stream appears to be the portion of the system mostly affected and the relaying of this length would go a long way in solving the problem.

(2) Rivers and Streams.

There is little pollution of the streams passing through the Area. No flooding was experienced in the Greatbridge Road Area. Ditches under the care of the Corporation were thoroughly cleaned out during the year. Notices to riparian owners to clean out streams were served and improvement was effected.

(3) (1) Closet Accommodation.

The District, except in a few isolated cases, is on the water carriage system.

(11) Public Cleansing.

The service is covered by Direct Labour over the whole of the District and Mechanical Transport is used. All premises are visited once per week, and in certain cases, where the volume of refuse is heavy, the visits are more frequent, and generally the arrangements are satisfactory.

The return of refuse collected during the year is as follows:-

<u>Quarter Ended -</u>	<u>No. of Loads Collected.</u>	<u>Estimated weight per load.</u>	<u>Total Weight.</u>
31st March.	223	1 Ton 9 cwts.	323 Tons 7 cwts.
30th June.	227	1 Ton 9 cwts.	329 Tons 3 cwts.
30th September.	242	1 Ton 9 cwts.	350 Tons 18 cwts.
31st December.	<u>270</u>	1 Ton 9 cwts.	<u>391 Tons 10 cwts.</u>
<u>Total for year.</u>	<u>962</u>		<u>1394 Tons 18 cwts.</u>

<u>Total for previous year.</u>	(Horse and Mechanical Transport.)	<u>1119 Tons 13 cwts.</u>
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The increase in collection over the previous year is due to the greater attention paid to this service consequent on the changing over from Horse transport (together with the elimination of Contract work) to mechanical transport, and to the increased population due to the reception of evacuees and other movements incurred by the state of National Emergency, and this increase is more distinctly shown in the returns for the last two quarters of the year.

All the highways receive weekly cleansing, the Main Roads being cleansed by arrangement with the County Council who contribute towards the cost. 94 loads of street sweepings, with an estimated weight of 117 tons, were collected during the year.

The refuse collected is taken to the Refuse Disposal Works situated in Budds Lane. Tins etc. were separated and sold and the remainder of the refuse burnt on an open type of incinerator, but with the introduction of the "Black-out" it was found impossible to continue burning. The refuse was then tipped unsorted and is beginning to accumulate. Negotiations for tipping in disused gravel pits have been opened and until these reach fruition the arrangements cannot be described as satisfactory.

(111) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Systematic inspection of the District has been carried out as often as possible, and individual complaints received immediate attention.

The total number of Sanitary Inspections amounted to 617 and 113 nuisances and defects were discovered. The number of nuisances abated was 88 and 37 Informal Notices were served. Of the 25 nuisances not complied with 24 of these concerned dilapidated conditions of dwelling houses and subsequent action under the Housing Acts was taken to deal with these cases.

During the year 15 fumigations were carried out after cases of Infectious Disease. The Local Authority provide sanitary fluid and carbolic powder where cases of Infectious Disease arise.

(1V) Shops.

Informal action was taken in two cases regarding temperature and cleanliness under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, and both were complied with.

(V) Camping Sites.

(1) Three small sites for camping purposes were used during the year. One was occupied for only a short period, and was abandoned when action was taken by the Local Authority upon being informed of nuisance being created through lack of water supply and sanitary accommodation. Regarding the other two sites, attention was called to the occupiers that a licence was necessary, and when application was made they were refused.

(2) No licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were issued by the Local Authority during the year.

(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the Area at one time - 10.

(VI) Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received during the year. The Borough has very few factories. Smoke abatement action is in the hands of the Police.

(Vll) Swimming Baths and Pools.

Bathing for members of the male sex has, for a great number of years, taken place in a portion of the Fishlake Stream towards the upper reaches of the Town. The river is continually flowing - the source of supply being the River Test.

The Corporation also possess an up-to-date open air Swimming Pool equipped with water purification plant. The pool was very well patronised during the year. Samples of the pool water are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination. The reports on the condition of the water are very satisfactory, and no adverse report has been received.

(Vlll) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council Houses found to be infested and disinfested.	2.
Other Houses. do.	-

The method employed for freeing infested houses is by:-

- (1) Fumigation with cyanide.
- (2) By removing portions of woodwork, spraying with 40% solution Formaldehyde, and fumigation with sulphur using 6 lb per 1,000 c.ft.

Disinfestation work is carried out by the Local Authority, but when cyanide is used such method is placed in the hands of Specialist Contractors.

Number of Cyanide fumigations carried out during the year.	2.
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(4) Schools.

An efficient system of supervision ensuring good and proper sanitary conditions on School premises was invariably met with. The sanitary accommodation and drainage is connected with the Council's sewers and is on the water carriage system.

Water supplies for all purposes are direct from mains of high pressure character, affording abundant and pure deliveries.

Conditions were found to be uniformly good.

Section D. Housing.

New Buildings and Housing.

Plans for the provision for a total of four houses were approved during the year, two of which were completely erected. Eight others approved in previous years were completed in 1939, making a total completed during the year of 10.

The Corporation entered into a Contract for the erection of 22 dwellings on the Alma Road Site, none of which were completely erected at the end of the year.

Displacement of persons from condemned houses has been retarded, only eight persons being re-housed during the year, bringing the total to 285 persons displaced from Slum properties to Council Houses built for the purpose out of a total of 316.

Six houses were demolished during the year in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

The Veterinary Surgeon's Report for 1939.

Alma House,

Romsey, Hampshire.

22nd November, 1940.

Borough of Romsey.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

A. - Milk Supply.

Under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Orders, I continue to inspect all Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops in the Borough, with regard to drainage, lighting, ventilation and water supply.

48 such inspections were made during the year 1939.

I have no authority to inspect cows in the Borough as to their general health or their milk.

The number of cowkeepers in the Borough is now 12 and the number of cows about 130.

B. - Meat.

As meat inspector I continue to inspect regularly all slaughter houses in the Borough, and all animals slaughtered or intended for slaughter, as to their fitness for human consumption, that I may find on the premises.

There are now 7 licensed slaughter houses in the Borough but no public slaughter house.

Over 600 visits of inspection were made during the year 1939, and about 3700 animals were inspected, dead or alive.

I inspect all stalls, if any, shops, stores and vehicles.

W. F. MAYNARD,
M.R.C.V.S.

Section F. Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

With the exception of Scarlet Fever, of which 29 cases were notified during the year, the incidence of infectious illness has been light. Most of the cases of Scarlet Fever were nursed at home. Four evacuees, who developed the disease, were admitted to Hospital. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the scheme was started 883 children have been immunised.

A supply of Diphtheria antitoxin is kept for issue to local practitioners. Full use has been made of the arrangements for examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens at the County Laboratory. No occasion arose for utilising the services of the Emergency Laboratory.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out the fumigation of rooms and their contents by formalin vapour. There is no steam disinfecter, but where it is considered necessary the infected articles are sent to the station of a neighbouring authority. There are no facilities in the Area (other than those at the Public Assistance Institution) for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Intimation of infectious disease occurring in school children is received from Head Teachers and is especially useful in mild cases where a practitioner has not been consulted.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during 1939.

Disease	Age Periods													Total notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65				
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	3	2	13	3	-	5	-	-	-	29	4	0	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	0	0	
Chicken Pox	-	1	-	1	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	11	0	0	

CANCER.

Deaths. Males 4. Females 5.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
55	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

There was no action under these Regulations, no case to which they apply having been met with. Nor was there any case for action under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. The public arrangement with regard to Tuberculosis cases and the arrangements made for them are carried out by the County Council.

T A B L E.Causes of Death in Romsey Urban District, 1939.

	All Causes	...	...	Males.	Females.
				35	26
6	Influenza	...	...	-	1
9	Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	...	-	2
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	-
13	Cancer	...	...	4	5
14	Diabetes	...	...	1	-
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	...	...	-	1
16	Heart Disease	...	...	11	8
18	Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	2	2
19	Bronchitis	...	...	2	-
20	Pneumonia	...	...	1	-
22	Septic Ulcer	...	...	1	-
24	Appendicitis	...	...	-	1
25	Cirrhosis	...	...	1	-
27	Other Digestive.	...	...	3	-
28	Nephritis	...	...	1	1
31	Congenital debility etc.	...	...	1	1
32	Senility	...	...	3	2
34	Other Violence..	...	...	2	-
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	1	1
37	Diarrhoea	...	...	-	1

Inspections.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power.	-	-	-
Factories without mechanical power.	-	-	-
Other premises under the Act.	-	-	-

(a) Seven copies will be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

(b) One copy to the Under Secretary of State (Statistical Branch), Home Office, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1.

(c) One copy to the County Medical Officer.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

G. TATE.

Medical Officer of Health.

